

KILEY LAW GROUP, LLC

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Readers,

As a motorcycle enthusiast and lifetime rider I have amassed an expansive base of knowledge and experience that I believe is helpful to any rider – new or veteran. I have catalogued my experience and then complemented it with a collection of the best of the basics from books, websites, and folks who are out there riding their bikes every day. It is said that one learns best by teaching.

I hope you find my new book, "[Do Loud Pipes Save Lives?](#)", helpful and informative. I've included some great motorcycle tips in this month's newsletter to start you on your safe riding this spring.

*Yours Truly,
Tom Kiley*

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Top Tips for Getting Back on Your Motorcycle This Spring

Spring is an exciting time for motorcycle riders, especially for those who live in Massachusetts. With the spring comes warmer weather and with warmer weather comes motorcycle riding season.

If you are preparing to hit the road again for the first time in a few months, make sure you and your bike are ready by following these motorcycle safety tips:

Tip # 1: Time for T-Clocs: T-Clocs is acronym that every biker should be familiar with. It's the "inspection checklist" that all motorcycle owners need to consider before getting on their bike, especially if that bike has been out of use:

- Tires & Wheels (air pressure, tread, cracks, dents, loose spokes, bearings and brakes)
- Controls (levers, switches, cables, hoses, and throttle)
- Lights and Electrics (working condition)
- Oil and Other Fluids (levels and leaks)
- Chassis (suspension and drive components)
- Side stand

Tip # 2 - Make sure that you're fit to ride: If you [had an injury](#) or medical condition that might affect your ability to handle your motorcycle, consult with your doctor before riding.

Tip # 3 -Take a test ride first: Take a test run on familiar roads to reacquaint yourself with your bike. If anything seems off, have your bike checked out immediately.

Keep Your Children Safe This Summer

Summer Safety Tips for Kids

It's no surprise that summer holds a special place in the hearts of children. School is out and summer vacation in Massachusetts means swimming pools are open, families wipe the dust off their boats for some fun in the sun, and fireworks light up the skies on the 4th of July.



With all this summertime fun, it's important not to forget that summer fun can quickly become a summer tragedy when proper safety precautions aren't followed. Keep your children safe this summer by following these summer safety tips:

WATER SAFETY

If your child is going to be around water this summer, make sure that they've been taught how to swim. Even when a child has completed swimming lessons however, accidents can still happen. If you have a swimming pool, make sure the pool is enclosed by a fence and that children are never allowed near or in the pool without constant adult supervision.

If you and your children will be spending time on a boat this summer, make sure your child wears a life jacket (appropriate to their size) at all times while on the boat.

FIREWORK SAFETY

Consumer fireworks like firecrackers, candles, and even sparklers are banned in Massachusetts, but that usually doesn't stop people from purchasing fireworks from out-of-state and setting them off on their drive ways or lawns. It goes without saying that fireworks are dangerous for everyone, not just children, and it is much safer to watch the [Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular](#) over the Charles River than trying to ignite them near your home.

BICYCLE SAFETY TIP: HOW TO GET YOUR CHILD TO WEAR A BICYCLE HELMET

Most adults know that wearing a bicycle helmet is important in preventing head injuries, but try telling that to a 10-year-old! Below are a few tips that may help you convince your child why they need to wear a bicycle helmet every time they ride their bikes.

START EARLY!

If your child has been riding their bicycle without a helmet for years, it will be much more difficult to convince them to start now. Don't let your child start riding a bicycle without a helmet, and if they are a little older, don't buy them a new bicycle unless a helmet comes with it—along with the promise that the helmet gets worn every time the bike leaves the house.

BE HONEST ABOUT THE DANGERS INVOLVED

While you don't want to scare your children, they need to know why helmets are important and what can happen if they don't wear one. Stress that bicycles aren't toys, how head injuries can cause permanent damage, and that growing up means taking on more responsibilities like wearing a helmet when they decide to ride their bicycles.

Talking about bicycle helmet safety in a way that lets your child feel like they've earned the responsibility of picking out and wearing their own helmet can make them feel more excited about the proposition.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

If you want your child to learn by example, it's important that you also wear a bicycle helmet anytime you go out riding. After all, if your child sees you riding your bike without a helmet on, why should they wear theirs?

Plus, the lives saved by bicycle helmets don't stop at children! Your head needs protection too, so why not take an afternoon to visit the bicycle store as a family and let everyone pick out a new bicycle helmet for some safe summer bicycle rides.

While many people believe sparklers are safe for children, you should know that sparklers can burn as hot as 1800 – 3000 degrees Fahrenheit and are the second leading cause of fireworks injuries that require hospitalization.

Speaking of burns, remember that it's hot and sunny out there so always make sure your child wears a sunscreen that protects against UVA and UVB rays with an SPF of 30 or higher to prevent nasty sunburns.

Calendar of Events

SPRING & SUMMER HOLIDAYS

May 31: Memorial Day
June 20: Father's Day
July 4: Independence Day

MASSACHUSETTS SUMMER FESTIVALS

June 23-25: Lowell Folk Festival
June 26-27: Sand and Sea Festival (Salisbury Beach)
July 2 -4: Berkshire Arts Festival (Gt Barrington)
July 4: Harborfest (Boston)
July 9-11: Whaling City Festival (New Bedford)

SUMMER MOTORCYCLE EVENTS

June 7 -12: Americade (Lake George, NY)
June 12 -20: Laconia Motorcycle Week (NH)
June 17: Molly Ride for Child Safety (Sturbridge, MA)
August 1: 4th Annual Brian's Ride (Raynham, MA)
August 9 – 15: Sturgis

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

More baby boomers are taking to the streets on motorcycles than ever before? The American Motorcyclist Association reports that the average motorcycle driver is now 48 years old.

The older the rider however, the greater the risk when it comes to motorcycle accidents. Motorcyclists over 40 run a greater risk being seriously injured, hospitalized, or killed in a motorcycle crash.

Looking at Massachusetts motorcycle accident statistics between 1998 and 2007 reveal that the largest increases in deaths were from bikers age 55 – 64, and a 50% increase in injuries for bikers between 45 and 54. So ride safe and ride smart!

JUNE IS COMING – HURRICANE SEASON APPROACHES!

June 1st is the start of hurricane season, meaning Massachusetts residents need to start taking notice. Predictions are for an above-average season in the Atlantic this year with 11-16 named storms, 6-8 at hurricane force, and 3-5 category 3 or higher.

When a storm threatens, have your vehicles with a full tank of gas and secured. During severe weather, remember to go out in your vehicle only when necessary and exercise caution, especially after a storm when downed trees and power lines are common.

MA Boating Law Myths & Facts

Before you head out to the water this summer on the beautiful lakes of Massachusetts, it's important to understand Massachusetts laws on boat operation as well as basic boat safety for you and your family.

Myth # 1: Life jackets (personal floatation devices) are required to be on the boat but no one actually has to wear them.

Fact: Anyone under 12 years of age is required to wear a life jacket at all times while on a boat in Massachusetts. Likewise, life jackets are required for water skiers, anyone operating a personal watercraft, and canoeists/kayakers. Failure to provide and enforce life jacket requirements is considered an act of operator negligence and is punishable by law.

Myth # 2: Massachusetts DUI laws don't apply to boating.

Fact: You cannot operate any vehicle in Massachusetts while under the influence of alcohol or drugs including boats. Anyone found to be operating a boat with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08% or higher can be arrested for boating under the influence and subject to penalties and fines including jail time or license suspension/revocation.

Myth #3: Since personal watercrafts (PWC) are smaller than boats, I can operate them in swimming areas.

Fact: Even though a PWC is smaller than a motorboat, they are still considered "motorboats" by law and must comply with all boating laws. This means you cannot operate a PWC within 150 feet of any public or private swimming area.

Myth #4: Reporting a boat accident is only required for major accidents.

Fact: Any boating accident that involves a death, personal injury, or property damage above \$500 must be reported by the boat's operator to the state environmental police.

Myth #5: My child/teen has been around PWC's for years so I can let them operate a personal watercraft on their own.

Fact: No one under the age of 16 is allowed to operate a PWC under any circumstances. PWC operators who under 18 (i.e. – 16 or 17) must complete a boating safety course and be issued a "boating safety certificate" which should be on their person at all times while operating a PWC.

If you or a loved one is injured in a boating accident, know that you do have legal rights and should speak to a Massachusetts personal injury attorney about your legal options.